

Kaua'i Unity Committee  
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Oct. 31, 1999

Dept. of Interior  
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Dept. of Justice  
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Office of Tribal Justice  
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Senator Daniel Akaka  
Attn: Noe Kalipi  
(202) 224-2126 fax

### CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE

RE: Kaua'i Demands Concerning December Hearings with Federal Representatives

Aloha,

Greetings from "The Kaua'i Unity Committee, a group of concerned individuals, lineal descendants of Kaua'i, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, sovereignty activists, families and organizations. We have formed to communicate our demands to the above mentioned federal representatives in the spirit of Senator Akaka's call for an open and inclusive process.

Kaua'i has a long history of independent thinking. Every island is unique and its people have their own styles and ways of thinking and of living. We have also had a very bad experience with federal hearings when the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs came for a hearing in 1989. Therefore, we have formed this committee to give you constructive notice of our island's demands, and on behalf of all neighbor islands we call on you to give more time and consideration to each of them.

Our committee has met three times and are issuing this notice after long and vigorous discussion. We will send copies to all neighbor islands and appropriate organizations.

As we, the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i, as described in Public Law 103-150, are in the process of self-determination, we must demand the fullest breadth of our rights and

responsibilities. Thus we demand the following in the spirit of aloha as we reserve all of our sovereign inherent rights:

1. One day hearing with representatives to be held on Kaua'i. We regret that you have only scheduled hearings at the East/West Center on O'ahu. Further, we will limit our one day hearing to the subject matter: political relationship of the Hawaiian people and the U.S.

We believe the federal government must hear the voices and demands on what forms of political relationship we are developing BEFORE any agreements can be reached on reconciliation. At this point, you are determining the process. This is unacceptable and, we believe, in violation of international law.

2. We also demand, in the spirit of the fullest discussions and in order to achieve the best results of our hearings, that a high level representative of the State Dept. be a part of the hearings. This person must be capable of answering our many questions concerning the unique history and future possibilities of the political relationship between Hawai'i and the U.S.

3. The last place chosen for the 1989 hearing was too small. Our committee suggests the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall or the KCC Performing Arts Center. Our committee offers to set this up and to do the public relations to get the largest number of people to attend. Because Hawai'i State organizations, trusts and non-profits controlled the agenda last time, we propose that Kaua'i Hawaiians host this hearing, decide the time limit and speaker selection. According to your press release, you are choosing the speakers at the hearings. This is unacceptable.

4. As a sub-topic of political relationship, many of our people wish to testify on the existing judicial system and the effects on the indigenous Hawaiians. The Justice Dept. representatives should be prepared to answer questions in this area.

We encourage you to allow Kaua'i to show you a little of our world, of our concerns, what is working for us, and what is not working for us. Our people will speak from our hearts, about what they think is important for you to know. As stated above, we make these demands in the spirit of aloha, with the greatest breadth of our rights to self-determination and to work towards a political relationship that is pono for the Hawaiian people and the United States.

Please respond to us at the above address at the earliest possible opportunity. If you are not able to accommodate our demands at this time, we suggest that you come back in the near future, as soon as you are able, for two full days of hearings on every island, arranged by each island's Native Hawaiian community and inclusive of all groups.

We are attaching a copy of Queen Lili'uokalani's Proclamation.

Mahalo nui loa a hui hou,

*Rebecca Mikala Koani Kekahu*  
for Kauai Unity Community

(see p. 3 for signatures)

cc. Pres. Wm Clinton

Sec. Madeleine Albright, Dept of State